

AWARENESS AND PREPAREDNESS

Alabama is susceptible to all types of severe weather and natural disasters, such as earthquakes. Disasters can strike quickly and without warning. They can force you to evacuate your community, or be confined to your home. Basic services and utilities could be cut off; emergency personnel and relief workers might not be able to reach you.

Being prepared for such disasters is crucial at home, work, school, and in your community. Before a disaster can strike, you should have an emergency preparedness plan ready. Preparedness plans come in all sizes as dictated by the individual and collective needs of you and your family.

The National Weather Service, Alabama Emergency Management Agency and American Red Cross chapters in Alabama encourage you to take the time to prepare now before the next disaster occurs.



Construct an emergency supply kit with essential supplies for the entire family, including but not limited to the items listed on the next page. The food and bottled water supply should be enough for three days for each person. Ensure your supply kit meets any special requirements for family members. Be aware of neighbors, family and friends who might need help both before and during the event.



Have a thorough knowledge of the safety rules presented in this booklet. Know where the best available protective area is in your home or work place. Make an evacuation plan for the family, including escape routes and a pre-determined meeting place. Include pets in your plan. Learn how to turn off utilities and to use life saving devices such as a fire extinguisher. Practice this plan.



Have reliable methods of communication to receive and exchange information. Remain informed of up to date information from NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, local television and radio stations, cell phone/text messages, or local warning systems. Have a point of contact outside the disaster area to relay information between other family and friends. Notify this contact of your evacuation plans.

Follow all instructions from local officials and emergency managers.



Learn more information about disaster training and emergency supply kits at www.birminghamredcross.org or www.redcross.org.